

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1
Pg 86 Mi Pg
75TH CONGRESS
1st Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { DOCUMENT
No. 107

REPORT OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

LIBRARY
JAN 29 1937
U. S. Department of Agriculture
FROM
LETTER

THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

TRANSMITTING

A REPORT OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1936

JANUARY 12, 1937.—Referred to the Committee on Agriculture and ordered to be
printed

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, January 12, 1937.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SIR: In accordance with the provisions of section 3 of the act of Congress approved February 18, 1929 (45 Stat. 1222; U. S. Code, supp., ch. 7a), I present herewith report of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1936.

Respectfully,

H. A. WALLACE,
*Secretary of Agriculture,
Chairman Migratory Bird Conservation Commission.*

REPORT OF MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1936

Notable progress was made during the fiscal year 1936 in the acquisition of lands for refuges under the provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act and by means of emergency funds made available for the purpose. The latter acquisitions, however, were not specifically under the provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act but the accomplishments were predicated upon the purposes set forth by that act. This report, therefore, could not give a clear

presentation of the migratory-bird refuge program if in the first place it did not take notice of the accomplishments made possible by emergency funds, and in the second place if it did not refer back to what had been done previously in establishing refuges under the provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act. Furthermore, the same instrumentality was used in investigating, appraising, and surveying the lands taken with emergency funds, and with the funds regularly appropriated for refuge acquisition, under the provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act, namely, the Bureau of Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture.

EARLY AND RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Prior to the fiscal year 1935 only 122,594 acres had been acquired for refuge purposes by purchase, and 946,214 acres had been reserved out of the public domain or from other nationally owned land, a total of 1,068,808 acres for bird-refuge purposes. (Notes 5 and 7 in table 1 explain why the acreage acquired by Executive order, and the corresponding total, are less than shown in table 1 of the annual report for 1934.) At the close of the fiscal year 1935, by means of emergency funds made available to the Biological Survey, 710,136 acres of land, embraced by 38 refuges and costing \$5,563,087, were under purchase agreement and in various stages of conveyance to the United States. During the fiscal year 1936, with emergency funds, 197,318 acres of land, costing \$985,385, were taken under purchase agreement and an additional 727,900 acres, costing \$3,982,579, were approved for acquisition by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, the necessary funds having been made available especially for that purpose through the facilities offered by act of June 15, 1935, under title VII (continuance of appropriation of the act of Mar. 16, 1934), wherein \$6,000,000 was appropriated for the acquisition of land for the restoration, rehabilitation, and protection of migratory waterfowl and other wildlife and for the erection and construction thereon and in connection therewith of buildings, dikes, dams, canals, and other necessary works. These purchases were designed to round out those refuge projects that at the time were incomplete and to establish 15 new refuges.

The Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act of March 16, 1934, passed to supplement and support the Migratory Bird Conservation Act and to provide funds for the acquisition of lands, and for their development and administration, has, during the 2 years since its enactment, provided only \$1,060,314, none of which has been expended for the purchase of land, but mostly for the development and administration of properties that have been acquired with other funds. This total is subject to some increase, however, since all credits to the Biological Survey for the sale of these stamps have not yet been deposited.

During the life of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act, that is, from July 1, 1929, to the present, 5,504,323 acres have been examined and appraised in 205 prospective refuges distributed throughout the United States. During the same period, 85 refuges have been acquired in whole or in part, having an aggregate area of 5,695,533 acres covered by purchase agreements, now in various stages of title vesting. Also during this time 13,328 miles of auxiliary lines and boundaries have been surveyed, and the latter monumented and posted, with a view to facilitating administration.

Purchase negotiations were continuing at the end of the fiscal year looking to the acquisition of additional lands within incomplete refuge units and on new projects at prices within the appraised values. When such negotiations are successful, the projects will be submitted to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission for consideration for approval, with the end in view of furthering the administration's program of providing adequately for the wildlife resources of the Nation.

FUNDS AVAILABLE

The following statement of expenditures sets out the funds and the source of funds available for refuge acquisitions since the passage of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act, including funds made directly available by the provisions of that act and the funds also made available from emergency appropriations.

Under the provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act Congress authorized certain funds to be appropriated each year. The amounts so authorized and the amounts appropriated for the years 1930-36 were as follows:

Fiscal year	Authorized	Appropriated	Fiscal year	Authorized	Appropriated
1930.....	\$75,000	\$75,000	1934.....	\$1,000,000	\$89,525
1931.....	200,000	200,000	1935.....	1,000,000	65,015
1932.....	600,000	400,000	1936.....	1,000,000	67,510
1933.....	1,000,000	318,000			

Despite the limitation of funds, however, during the years 1930-34 a total of 1,075,452 acres was acquired for refuge purposes by purchase, Executive order, reservation, or gift. During the year 1934 the first emergency funds were made available, the first being under the National Industrial Recovery Act. Although the major part of this money went toward the surveying of refuges already established, \$5,217 was expended for the purchase of some 446 acres of land needed to round out refuges already under administration by the Survey.

Emergency appropriations during 1935 and 1936 enabled the Bureau to carry out the purposes of the act. Executive Order No. 6724 allotted the sum of \$1,000,000 to the Survey from \$20,000,000 allocated to the Forest Service from the appropriation for National Industrial Recovery. With this amount 94,523 acres were added to the refuge program. Further acquisitions were made possible under the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and the Resettlement Administration. These agencies purchased lands, which were examined, appraised, negotiated for, and surveyed by the Biological Survey. Under such an arrangement 723,341 acres have been acquired at a cost of \$5,659,163.

From the \$6,000,000 made available for the acquisition by purchase or otherwise of lands necessary to the refuge program by act of June 15, 1935, title VII, 611,597 acres were acquired up to the end of this fiscal year. Title V of the same act authorized the President to allocate such sum as he might deem necessary for the acquisition by purchase, or otherwise, of lands for refuge purposes. An allocation of \$950,000 was made under date of February 12, 1936. Rescissions, however, amounting to \$543,559 have been made and the balance

remaining for purchase of lands is now \$406,441. This amount will be expended on areas where it has been necessary to resort to judicial proceedings for acquisition, and where such authority has been questioned under funds available by reason of Executive Order 6724.

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Acres approved for purchase to June 30, 1933.....	139, 608. 29
2. Average cost per acre.....	\$4. 57
3. Acres approved for purchase July 1, 1933, to date.....	669, 974. 98
4. Average cost per acre.....	\$4. 26
5. Acres approved for purchase by Federal Emergency Relief Administration and Resettlement Administration.....	722, 039. 92
6. Average cost per acre.....	\$7. 81
7. Acres approved for purchase under other emergency funds.....	112, 958. 93
8. Average cost per acre.....	\$8. 09
9. Number of acres acquired by Executive order June 30, 1933....	936, 686. 56
10. Number of acres acquired by Executive order July 1, 1933, to date.....	4, 687, 785. 85

SUMMARY OF THE REFUGE PROGRAM

The following tables set forth in detail the accomplishments in the acquisition of wildlife refuges under the provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act and through the means provided by emergency appropriations:

TABLE 2.—*Lands for refuges acquired or in process of acquisition with emergency funds*

State and county	Refuge	Fiscal year 1936			Acquired during fiscal years 1932-35
		Acquired by purchase	Pending conveyance	Total	
		<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Alaska.....	Chitina.....	1		1	
Arkansas:					
Mississippi.....	Big Lake.....		80	80	363
Arkansas, Desha, Monroe, and Phillips.....	White River.....	24,924	33,071	57,995	39,721
California: Colusa and Glenn.....	Sacramento.....		10,775	10,775	
Florida: Jefferson, Taylor, and Wakulla.....	St. Marks.....		10,653	10,653	
Georgia: Nathan.....	Savannah River (see also South Carolina).....	2,574	1,462	4,036	424
Illinois: Mason.....	Chautauqua.....		2,353	2,353	
Iowa:					
Pottawamie.....	Delta.....		8,000	8,000	
Cameron and Jefferson Davis.....	Lacassine.....		22,304	22,304	
Cameron.....	Sabine.....		137,233	137,233	
Michigan: Schoolcraft.....	Seney.....	3,958	2,110	6,068	9,906
Minnesota:					
Marshall.....	Mud Lake.....		52,713	52,713	
Aitkin.....	Rice Lake.....		7,243	7,243	
Missouri:					
Holt.....	Squaw Creek.....	4,027	918	4,945	1,356
Chariton.....	Swan Lake.....	4,320	3,400	4,920	
Montana:					
Phillips.....	Lake Bowdoin.....		640	640	
Roosevelt and Sheridan.....	Medicine Lake.....	3,355	10,382	13,737	9,672
Beaverhead.....	Red Rock Lakes.....	11,319	20,776	32,095	
Lake.....	National Bison Range.....				19
Nebraska:					
Garden.....	Crescent Lake.....		1,847	1,847	
Cherry.....	Niobrara.....	2,531	2,531	2,531	716
Do.....	Valentine.....	41,286	17,655	58,941	2,120
North Carolina: Hyde.....	Swanquarter.....				8
North Dakota:					
Poster and Stutsman.....	Arrowwood.....	3,979	3,514	7,493	5,813
Burke and Ward.....	Des Lacs.....	3,388	5,383	8,721	7,275
Walsh.....	Lake Ardoch.....		291	291	
Burleigh and Kidder.....	Long Lake.....		586	586	
Burke and Mountrail.....	Lastwood.....	4,940	13,114	18,054	4,065
Bottineau and McHenry.....	Lower Souris.....	25,385	7,979	33,364	15,190
Sargent.....	Storm Lake.....		2	2	
Do.....	Tewauken.....		80	80	
Renville and Ward.....	Upper Souris.....	21,740	2,173	23,913	5,499

TABLE 2.—*Lands for refuges acquired or in process of acquisition with emergency funds—Continued*

State and county	Refuge	Fiscal year 1936				Acquired during fiscal years 1932-35
		Acquired by purchase	Pending title conveyance	Total		
		<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	
Oregon:						
Harney	Malheur (Blitzen unit)	3,162	3,768	6,930	64,717	
Idaho:	Malheur (Malheur unit)	5,191		5,191	2,719	
South Carolina:	Cape Romain	825	2,600	3,425		4
Charleston	Savannah River (see also Georgia)					678
Jasper						
South Dakota:	Lacreek	1,192	3,402	4,594		3,485
Bennett	Lake Andes	11		11		310
Charles Mix	Sand Lake	11,042		16,739		2,916
Brown	Waubay	1,823		3,260		113
Day	Lake Isom			1,581		16
Tennessee: Lake and Obion	Muleshoe		3,654	3,654		
Texas: Balm	Bear River		15,519	15,519		
Texas: Baby	Trempealeau		5,404	5,404		708
Utah: Box Elder						
Wisconsin: Buffalo and Trempealeau						
Total		178,123	419,799	597,922		177,813

NOTE.—Discrepancies in entries and totals in this table and in similar table reported by the Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey, for the same year, are explained by the recent receipt of more complete data on acreage.

TABLE 1.—Lands for refuges acquired and approved for acquisition under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act program through June 30, 1936

State and county	Refuge	Fiscal year 1936					Acquired in previous years beginning Feb. 18, 1929	
		Acquired by purchase	Pending title conveyance	Total	Acquired other than by purchase	Total	By purchase	Other than by purchase
		<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Alaska.....	Semidi Islands.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Arizona: Mohave.....	Boulder Canyon (see also Nevada).....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18,290
California: Imperial.....	Salton Sea.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1312,017
Siskiyou.....	Tule Lake.....	.....	.....	.....	117,200	.....	8,982	136,578
Delaware: Kent.....	Bombay Hook.....	.....	8,277	8,277	.....	17,200	.....	19,363
Newcastle.....	Killcohook (see also New Jersey).....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Florida: Levy.....	Cedar Keys.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1586
Hernando.....	Chinsegut Hill.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1224
Georgia: Jefferson, Taylor, and Wakulla.....	St. Marks.....	1,237	5,485	6,722	.....	6,722	22,033	119,311
Charlton, Clinch, and Ware.....	Okefenokee.....	.....	296,000	296,000	.....	296,000	.....	.....
Chatham.....	Savannah River (see also South Carolina).....	.....	875	875	.....	875	424	.....
McIntosh.....	Wolf Island.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1575
Idaho: Jefferson.....	Carnas.....	.....	8,372	8,372	.....	8,372	.....	.....
Iowa: Lee.....	Green Bay.....	.....	5,000	5,000	.....	5,000	.....	.....
Louisiana: Paquimines.....	Delta.....	.....	31,208	31,208	1900	32,108	.....	.....
Cameron and Jefferson Davis.....	Lacassine.....	.....	7,510	7,510	.....	7,510	.....	.....
Maine: Washington.....	Moosehorn.....	.....	10,965	10,965	.....	10,965	.....	.....
Knox.....	Widows Island.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	312
Maryland: Dorechester.....	Blackwater.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,241	.....
Michigan: Schoolcraft.....	Seney.....	.....	42,561	42,561	1936	43,497	.....	.....
Minnesota: Atoka.....	Rice Lake.....	.....	1,359	1,359	.....	1,359	.....	.....
Cottonwood.....	Talcott Lake.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Becker.....	Tamarack.....	.....	16,011	21,060	280	80	.....	.....
Winona.....	Upper Mississippi (for headquarters and warehouse).....	5,049	1	1	140	21,060	1	.....
Mississippi: Washington.....	Yazoo.....	.....	17,663	17,663	.....	17,663	.....	.....

¹ Set aside by executive order or proclamation.² Acquired by gift.³ Act of Congress.

TABLE 1.—Lands for refuges acquired and approved for acquisition under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act program through June 30, 1936—Continued

State and county	Refuge	Fiscal year 1936					Acquired in previous years beginning Feb. 18, 1929	
		Acquired by purchase	Pending title conveyance	Total	Acquired other than by purchase	Total	By purchase	Other than by purchase
		<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Missouri:								
Stoddard.....	Mingo.....	15,353	15,353	15,353				
Holt.....	Squaw Creek.....	213	720	933				
Charlton.....	Swan Lake.....		5,553	5,553				
Montana:								
Cascade and Choteau.....	Benton Lake.....							
Custer.....	Fort Keogh.....							
Phillips.....	Lake Bowdoin.....				15,400	15,400		
Sheridan and Roosevelt.....	Medicine Lake.....				1,301	1,301		
Beaverhead.....	Red Rock Lakes.....				1,196	1,196		
Nebraska:								
Garden.....	Crescent Lake.....							12,235
Cherry.....	Niobrara.....							156,954
Nevada:								
Clark.....	Boulder Canyon (see also Arizona).....		375	375			40,608	1,173
Humboldt and Washoe.....	Charles Sheldon.....							14,405
Clark and Lincoln.....	Desert Game.....				158,794	528,794		1346,443
Churchill.....	Fallon.....				2,022,000	2,022,000	2,496	127,945
Nye.....	Railroad Valley.....							17,902
Elko and White Pine.....	Ruby Lake.....		28,481	28,481				135,184
New Jersey: Salem.....	Killbuck (see also Delaware).....							1,856
New Mexico:								
Chaves.....	Bitter Lake.....	320	9,808	10,128				
Socorro.....	Bosque del Apache.....		55,886	55,886				
Sierra and Socorro.....	Rio Grande.....							173,228
Chaves.....	Roswell.....							
North Carolina:								
Hyde.....	Lake Mattamuskeet.....		529	529				
Dare.....	Pea Island.....		7,206	7,206				
Hyde.....	Swanquarter.....						16,493	
North Dakota:								
Suitsman and Foster.....	Arrowwood.....							14
Burke and Ward.....	Des Lacs.....							
Grand Forks.....	Kellys Slough.....	40	40	40	187	127		1,690

Burdigh and Kidder.....	Long Lake.....	1,524	1,524	1,199	1,723	5,292	1,170
Montreal and Burke.....	Leeward.....	8,724	8,724	1,80	8,804	---	---
Bottineau and McHenry.....	Lower Souris.....	---	---	---	---	---	---
Benson.....	Sullys Hill ⁴	961	961	1,120	1,081	---	³ 994
Renville and Ward.....	Upper Souris.....	---	---	---	---	---	---
Oklahoma:							
Alfalfa.....	Salt Plains.....	---	---	---	---	---	1 19,452
Comanche.....	Wichita Mountains ⁴	---	---	---	---	---	1 4,420
Oregon:							
Curry.....	Goat Island.....	---	---	---	---	---	1 21
Lake.....	Hart Mountain ⁴	25,659	25,659	1,469,877	495,536	---	---
Harney.....	Malheur (Blitzen Unit).....	1,445	1,445	---	1,445	---	---
Do.....	Malheur (Malheur Unit).....	1,674	1,674	---	1,674	---	---
South Carolina:							
Charleston.....	Cape Romain.....	3	3	---	3	22,448	⁶ 6,994
Jasper.....	Savannah River (see also Georgia).....	400	400	---	400	---	1 2,353
South Dakota:							
Bennett.....	Lacreek.....	---	---	---	---	---	---
Charles Mix.....	Lake Andes.....	19	19	---	19	640	---
Brown.....	Sand Lake.....	---	---	1,80	80	---	---
Day.....	Waubay.....	388	545	---	545	---	---
Texas: Bailey.....	Muleshoe.....	2,157	2,157	---	2,157	---	---
Utah:							
Box Elder.....	Bear River.....	3	3	---	3	---	---
Do.....	Locomotive Springs.....	---	---	---	---	---	1 1,031
Washington:							
Grant.....	Lenore Lake ⁷	---	---	---	---	---	---
Spokane.....	Turnbull.....	5,969	5,969	---	5,969	---	---
Pacific.....	Willapa Harbor.....	1,643	1,643	---	1,643	---	---
Wyoming:							
Albany.....	Bamforth Lake.....	---	---	---	---	965	1 201
Alcon.....	Elk Refuge ⁴	7,979	7,979	⁸ 3,062	11,061	1,248	---
Albany.....	Hutton Lake.....	---	---	---	---	---	1 153
Total.....		6,996	633,766	3,060,372	3,701,134	108,870	1,109,794

¹ Set aside by executive order or proclamation.² Act of Congress.³ Primarily for big game.⁴ Roswell, N. Mex., is now being acquired under the new name "Bitter Lake", because a large portion of the area must be purchased; the acreage reserved by Executive Order No. 5909, approved Aug. 22, 1932, has been deducted in this tabulation to avoid duplication.⁵ By cession.⁶ Due to the purchase program now beginning on Lenore Lake, the acreage formerly shown as reserved by Executive order has been deducted to avoid duplication.⁷ Held under lease.⁸ Note.—Discrepancies in entries and totals in this table and in similar table reported by the Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey, for the same year, are explained by the recent receipt of more complete data on acreage.





